

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 5 and 14, and amend claims 1, 6, 11-13, and 15-16 as follows:

1. (Currently amended) An electrostatic actuator comprising:

a movable electrode disposed for relative displacement along a basement plane and defining first and second opposed surfaces opposed to each other, said movable electrode having a thickness W;

a first stable electrode column ~~fixed to~~ standing on a base substrate ~~having a top surface aligned along the basement plane~~ and including a bottom surface opposed to the base substrate;

a second stable electrode column ~~fixed to the top surface of~~ standing on the base substrate at a location spaced from the first stable electrode, and including a bottom surface opposed to the base substrate;

a first stable electrode wall connected to the first stable electrode column and extending between the first and second stable electrode columns, said first stable electrode wall having a thickness W and being opposed to the first opposed surface of the movable electrode;

a second stable electrode wall connected to the second stable electrode column and extending between the first and second stable electrode columns, said second stable electrode wall having a thickness W and being opposed to the second opposed surface of the movable electrode; and

an insulating solid piece connecting the first and second stable electrode walls;
and
insulating layers interposed between the bottom surface of the first stable electrode column and the base substrate and between the bottom surface of the second stable electrode column and the base substrate, a corrosion vestige retracting inward from a contour of the bottom surface in an amount of $W/2$ being formed on the insulating layers.

2. (Original) The electrostatic actuator according to claim 1, wherein said insulating solid piece is made of any of silicon dioxide, silicon nitride, alumina, glass and resin.

3. (Original) The electrostatic actuator according to claim 1, wherein said first and second stable electrode walls extend in parallel with each other.

4. (Original) The electrostatic actuator according to claim 1, wherein said movable electrode is a frame member surrounding the first and second stable electrode walls.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently amended) The electrostatic actuator according to claim 1, wherein ~~at least one of~~ the first and second stable electrode walls is fixed to the base substrate with ~~an~~the insulating ~~layer~~layers respectively.

7-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously presented) The electrostatic actuator according to claim 3, wherein the first and second stable electrode columns are located in a space between first and second datum planes, the first datum plane being defined to include an outward surface of the first stable electrode wall and the second datum plane being defined to include an outward surface of the second stable electrode wall.

11. (Currently amended) The electrostatic actuator according to claim 10, wherein a distance between the first and second datum planes is larger than three times a ~~wall~~the thickness W of the movable electrode.

12. (Currently amended) The electrostatic actuator according to claim ~~4~~1, wherein each of ~~the first and second stable electrode columns has a square section opposed to the base substrate, and sides of the square section are set larger than three times a wall thickness of the movable electrode~~the bottom surfaces of the first and second stable electrode

columns is formed into a quadrate shape, four sides of the quadrate shape having a length equal to or larger than a length $3W$.

13. (Currently amended) The electrostatic actuator according to claim 10, wherein ~~the movable electrode is a frame member surrounding the first and second stable electrode walls, the movable electrode has a thickness W and each of the first and second stable electrode columns is fixed to the base substrate at a position having~~each of the bottom surfaces of the first and second stable electrode columns has an area that is larger than $9W^2$.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently amended) The electrostatic actuator according to claim 14, further comprising:

a conductive wiring pattern extending on the base substrate; and
a first electrically conductive piece interposed between the conductive wiring pattern and the bottom surface of the first and second stable electrode columns, the first electrically conductive piece being surrounded by one of the insulating film layers; and
a second electrically conductive piece interposed between the conductive wiring pattern and the bottom surface of the second stable electrode column, the second electrically conductive piece being surrounded by another one of the insulating layers.

16. (Currently amended) An electrostatic actuator comprising:

a movable electrode disposed for relative displacement along a basement plane,
said movable electrode having a thickness W;

~~a pair of stable electrodes, each of the pair of stable electrodes~~at least one
stable electrode standing on a base substrate and including an electrode column and an
electrode wall connected to the electrode column, ~~the electrode column having a width~~
~~greater than a width of the electrode wall~~the electrode column including a bottom surface
opposed to the base substrate, the electrode wall having a wall surface opposed to the
movable electrode ; and

~~an insulating solid piece connecting the electrode walls of the pair of stable~~
electrodes,

~~wherein the electrode columns of the pair of stable electrodes are disposed~~
~~between datum planes, and the datum planes are defined to respectively include the wall~~
~~surfaces of the electrode walls~~

an insulating layer interposed between the bottom surface of the electrode
column and the base substrate, a corrosion vestige retracting inward from a contour of the
bottom surface in an amount of $W/2$ being formed on the insulating layer.